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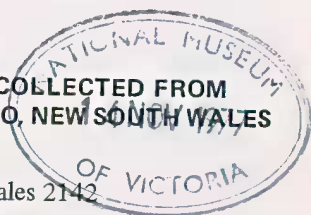
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## A LIST OF THE BUPRESTIDAE (COLEOPTERA) COLLECTED FROM *LEPTOSPERMUM FLAVESCENS* SM. AT EAST MINTO, NEW SOUTH WALES

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### Introduction

East Minto is situated approximately 56 km south west of Sydney, roughly equidistant between Liverpool and Campbelltown. The area is typical of the Hawkesbury sandstone country of the Sydney environs. Local residential development is, however, encroaching on this area of natural bushland.

*Leptospermum flavescens* Sm. (family: Myrtaceae), known locally as the Yellow Tea Tree, is frequently found in the area along open gullies, small water courses and cleared areas adjacent to roads.

Collecting of buprestids from the blossom of *L. flavescens* was carried out during the years 1972, 1974 and 1975. The occurrence of buprestid species was rated on a per season basis and data tabulated for the 19 species recorded. In the following list the term 'rare' indicates less than three specimens, 'few' three to ten specimens and 'common' more than ten specimens taken during each year of collection.

Nomenclature follows that of Carter (1929).

### List of species

Species	Seasonal status			Dates of collection
	1972	1974	1975	
Subfamily Buprestinae				
<i>Neocuris guerini</i> Hope	absent	rare	absent	12 Dec - 17 Dec
<i>Curis caloptera</i> Boisd.	absent	absent	rare	2 Dec
<i>Stigmodera macularia</i> Don.	common	common	common	25 Nov - 14 Dec
<i>Stigmodera andersoni</i> L. & G.	rare	rare	absent	2 Dec - 11 Dec
<i>Stigmodera australasiae</i> L. & G.	rare	absent	absent	2 Dec

<i>Stigmodera balteata</i> Saund.	few	few	absent	26 Nov - 12 Dec
<i>Stigmodera bella</i> Saund.	absent	rare	absent	9 Dec
<i>Stigmodera coeruleipes</i> Saund.	rare	rare	absent	25 Nov - 9 Dec
<i>Stigmodera cruenta</i> L. & G.	rare	absent	absent	2 Dec
<i>Stigmodera nasuta</i> Saund.	common	common	common	21 Nov - 17 Dec
<i>Stigmodera flavopicta</i> Boisd.	absent	few	rare	2 Dec - 12 Dec
<i>Stigmodera luteipennis</i> L. & G.	rare	absent	absent	2 Dec
<i>Stigmodera octospilota</i> L. & G.	rare	absent	few	25 Nov - 2 Dec
<i>Stigmodera rufipennis</i> Kirby	few	absent	few	25 Nov - 2 Dec
<i>Stigmodera sexguttata</i> Macl.	rare	few	absent	2 Dec - 17 Dec
<i>Stigmodera sexplagiata</i> L. & G.	common	common	common	23 Nov - 15 Dec
<i>Stigmodera spinolae</i> L. & G.	absent	absent	rare	27 Nov
<i>Stigmodera undulata</i> (Don.)	common	few	few	25 Nov - 10 Dec
Subfamily Chalcophorinae				
<i>Cyria imperialis</i> Fab.	rare	absent	absent	2 Dec
No. of spp. occurring each season	14	11	9	

### Discussion

No buprestids were seen until the 21st November in any year, some 12 weeks after the initial blossoming of *L. flavescens*. Variation in local rainfall and temperature in the three years of collection appeared to make no difference to blossoming times of the plant or the dates on which buprestids were first noted feeding from *L. flavescens*. The greatest number of both species and individuals were reached just prior to the final flowering phases of the plant which occurred on approximately 18th December.

The 'Tick bush' *Kunzea ambigua* (Sm.) Druce, family Myrtaceae, was available as a secondary food source until the end of November. One jewel beetle, *Neocuris guerini*, although found only once on *Leptospermum* (1974) was reasonably common on *Kunzea* blossom growing only a few metres away. Random collecting in the area for buprestids after mid December revealed only *Cisseis leucostricta*, specimens of which were restricted to *Banksia* sp.

Considerable seasonal variation was noted during the period of this study in both the number of species and number of individuals present. It appears that populations of all the buprestids listed, other than those of the three most common species (*S. macularia*, *S. nasuta* and *S. sexplagiata*), are subject to considerable fluctuation from year to year.

No doubt continued collecting from *L. flavescens* in the area will reveal further species.

### Acknowledgement

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### Reference

CARTER, H.J., 1929. A check list of the Australian Buprestidae. *Aust. Zool.* 5(4): 265-5